Re-development of Mumbai High North oil fields

576. SHRIMATI SURPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC plans to invest Rs. 4,000 crore on re-development of Mumbai High North oilfields, which would enable the company to enhance production from the ageing oilfield;

(b) if so, whether ONGC has sought a board approval for investing around Rs. 4,000 crore for re-development of Mumbai High North oil fields;

(c) if so, the concrete measures and steps, Government proposes to take in this regard; and

(d) by what time it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) ONGC had launched a major initiative in the form of re-development projects to arrest production deceline of Mumbai High oil field in 2000-01. The first phase of Mumbai High North (MHN) re-development project was completed in December, 2006 at a cost of Rs. 3239.43 crore with the success of first phase, ONGC is presently working on feasibility of the second phase of Mumbai High North re-development.

Difficulties of LPG consumers

577. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is acute shortage of domestic LPG in many parts of North India and specially in Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the consumers are facing serious problems, and they are compelled to buy the cylinders from black market at a very high price;

(c) whether there is an undeclared ban on issue of new gas connections and people are forced to buy hot-plates from the dealers; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to mitigate the problems of poor people and stop black marketing by dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 8450 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonnes) and 218 TMT of domestic LPG in the country and in State of Bihar respectively during the period—April, 2007—January, 2008 as against 8030 TMT and 207 TMT respectively during the corresponding period of last year.

However, OMCs had reported backlog in LPG supplies in certain States in the country due to reduction in supply of bulk LPG by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) & Essar Oil Limited in January 2008, delay in movement of bulk LPG by rail from Jamnagar to the Northern Region, increased demand in the States due to severe cold which resulted in panic